Action Plan for Jute Industry

317. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a long term action plan for jute industry; and

(a) if so, what are the salient features of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Government propose to continue to reserve packaging of specified commodities in jute under the provision of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 to protect the traditional market of jute goods in the packing sector. Government will continue to encourage modernisation in the Jute Industry through utilisation of the Jute Modernisation Fund. Government will continue to utilise the Special Jute Development Fund for the overall development of the jute sector. Government will also promote the production of value-added diversified jute products with a view to develop new markets for jute goods and to increased exports.

Recognition to the Anand Marg Universal relief team by United Nations Secretariat

318. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the United Nations Secretariat has taken a decision to recognise the Anand Marg Universal Relief Team as a non-Governmental organisation;

(b) whether the terrorist activities of Anand Marg on national and international level have been brought to the notice of the United Nations Secretariat; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to get the said recognition cancelled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Secretariat Committee on Applications from Non-Governmental Organisations accepted AMURT a registered NGO in US, as an NGO associated with the UN Department of Public Information on 28th June, 1991.

(b) and (c) The Government have brought to the attention of the UN Secretariat the facts relating to the activities of Anand Marg in India and abroad and have requested for a review of the decision of the UN Secretariat Committee.

Maintenance of National Highway No. 2 in Bihar

319. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of National Highway No. 2 in the State of Bihar is very deplorable;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this highway is the main source of entry to the eastern States;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not maintaining this highway properly; and

(d) what steps are proposed to set right the National Highway No. 2 in Bihar and to minimise the accidents and in convenience to the road users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) National